

Amendment is to be entered contingent upon the granting of special status in accord with the Petition.

✓ Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows: ✓

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims ~~1-16, 18, 22, 24, 30-35, 37-55, 57, 61, 67-71 and 73~~ without prejudice.

**REMARKS**

The subject application is a Continuation application of PCT International Application No. PCT/US98/10719, which claimed the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Serial No. 60/047,472, filed May 23, 1997. Claims 1-73 were pending in the subject application. In order to accelerate the examination and prosecution of the application, applicants have filed a Petition to Make Special under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII).

Contingent upon the granting of special status, applicants submit this Amendment in order to present those claims which were deemed to meet the requirements of PCT Articles 33(2)-(4), and which are believed to be in allowable condition. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-16, 18, 22, 24, 30-35, 37-55, 57, 61, 67-71 and 73 have been cancelled, without prejudice to applicants' rights to further pursue them in a future copending continuing application. As a result, claims 17, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 36, 56, 58-60, 62-66 and 72 would remain pending and under examination in the subject application. No new matter is presented by this Amendment, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no substantive issues remain in the application, and rapid passage to allowance of the claims under examination is solicited.

If the Examiner determines that a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed necessary in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is otherwise deemed required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

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